

Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, one further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism that handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of nine local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication to seeing that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as is true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and to thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform their Representative of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In mid-December, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

Last year, the board interviewed over 30 applicants. Nominations included 10 to the Naval Academy, 7 to the Military Academy, 4 to the Air Force Academy, and 5 to the Merchant Marine Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The Board then forwards their recommendations to the academies by January 31, where recruiters review files and notify applicants and my office of their final decisions on admission.

It is both reassuring and rewarding to know that many of our military officers hail from our hometowns or close by. When we consider the role of these officers in peace or war, we can rest easier knowing that the best and brightest are in command. Wherever they are sent, be that Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti or the Persian Gulf, many of these officers have academy training.

And while a few people may question the motivations and ambitions of some young people, the academy review process shows that the large majority of our graduates are just as highly motivated as the guidance from loving parents, dedicated teachers and schools, and from trusted clergy and rabbis. Indeed, every time I visit a school, speak at a college, or meet a young academy nominee, I am constantly reminded that we as a nation are blessed with fine young men and women.

Their willingness and desire to serve their country is perhaps the most persuasive evidence of all.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2001, 11TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Christopher Hill, Pompton Plains, Pequannock H.S.; Tin T. Nguyen, Denville, Morris Knolls H.S.; Michael Raphael, Jr., Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan; and Alexander T. Wong, Montville, Montville H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE

Joseph M. Crowley, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Michael Frediani, Morris Plains, Parsippany H.S.; James J. Maye, IV, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan; Bradley W. Schmidt, Mine Hill, Dover H.S.; and Patrick H. Uhles, Montville, Montville H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Lee W. Barnes, Mendham, West Morris Mendham; Robert J. Brougham, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Paul P. Crooke, Long Valley, West Morris Central; Bethanne N. Laggy, Flanders, Pope John XXIII H.S.; David M. Marshall, Jr., Pompton Plains, Pequannock; Andrew G. Schmidt, Chester, West Morris Mendham; and William Wu, Morris Plains, Parsippany Hills H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Andrew R. Bradley, Chester, West Morris Mendham; John J. Donnelly, III, Randolph, Delbarton School; Patrick M. Falvey, Randolph, Randolph H.S.; Thomas J. Kelly, Liberty Corner, Ridge H.S.; Jerimiah D. Lancaster, Lake Hopatcong, Jefferson H.S.; Ralph P. Lufkin, Basking Ridge, Ridge H.S.; Amy Swiatecki-McCabe, Chatham, Chatham H.S.; Adam R. Mueller, Bridgewater, Bridgewater-Raritan; Amanda M. Orson, Towaco, Montville H.S./The Citadel; and Grant M. Thompson, Livingston, Livingston H.S.

HONORING LANNA WALSH OF SAN
DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a California student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in our community. Lanna Walsh of San Diego has just been named one of California's top honorees in the 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in the United States.

Lanna Walsh is being recognized for founding a tutoring and mentoring program that pairs high school students with elementary and middle school students through the county

public library system. She is a senior at Patrick Henry High School.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen is making. As a former director of a youth leadership program myself, I know what an incredible difference these programs make in our community. Volunteers like Lanna are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I heartily applaud Lanna Walsh for making San Diego a better place to live, and for the positive impact she is making on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT
WILL IMPROVE VETERAN'S
HEALTHCARE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill that will improve veterans healthcare.

I speak with veterans in the Second District of Tennessee on a regular basis, and I have heard time and time again of their frustration with scheduling an appointment at a Veterans Administration Clinic. Many times, people have to wait weeks and months just to see a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, this is not fair, and it is not right. Those who have laid their lives on the line for America deserve the utmost respect and assistance. They should not have to wait weeks and even months to be treated for a health problem.

When our Nation's veterans signed up to serve in the military, they were promised that they would be taken care of when they retired. We have a responsibility to live up to that promise, and to provide veterans with good healthcare.

Under this legislation, if a veteran tried to get a doctor's appointment at a Veterans' Clinic and had to wait longer than six months, the VA would be required to provide healthcare outside of the VA Clinics.

I am sure all veterans would agree that something needs to be done to improve their access to healthcare at Veterans' Clinics, and I am hopeful that this bill will be a step in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and improve healthcare for the loyal and committed veterans of our Nation.

WOMT CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF BROADCASTING

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I want to salute and congratulate WOMT Radio in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, as it celebrates 75 years of community leadership and local broadcasting. This station has become a mainstay of the community and we have come to rely on WOMT to provide current, useful, and—perhaps most important—community-based programming. WOMT is relatively unique in the current broadcast world by maintaining its local control and focus. It prides itself on its ability to provide programming that centers on talk, news and local sports programs.

The station first went on the air back in 1926 and at the time was only the third radio station in existence in the state of Wisconsin. Over its proud 75 year history, WOMT has had only three owners. In this era of broadcasting mega-mergers, WOMT has thrived under local ownership, providing the community not only news and information, but also shows featuring local on-air personalities that lakeshore residents have come to know well over the years. Throughout its long history, WOMT has proven that a radio station can be successful without compromising its goal of informing and educating its listeners.

WOMT has provided hours of listening pleasure to lakeshore residents over the years as we drive to work, pick up the kids from school, run our errands on the weekend, or tune in to catch a high school game. I again want to congratulate all the people at WOMT, including longtime owner Don Seehafer, for their dedication and commitment to making our lives a little more enjoyable. Congratulations, WOMT, on your first 75 years and we look forward to at least 75 more.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA ON JANUARY 26, 2001, AND SUPPORT FOR ONGOING AID EFFORTS

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy for the victims of the earthquake that recently struck the state of Gujarat in western India.

January 26th marked Republic Day for the Indian people. The celebration of the fifty-first anniversary of the ratification of the Indian constitution was overshadowed by an earthquake, which although it only lasted sixty seconds, took an incalculable toll on western India.

It measured 7.9 on the Richter Scale. An earthquake so forceful and deadly that tremors were felt throughout the country and an estimated 25,000 people were killed. Remarkably,

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

rescuers continue to find survivors, and we are grateful for their work on behalf of the Indian people. The slow and arduous process of rebuilding both buildings and lives has begun. The aftershock of such a calamity will be felt for years to come.

It is therefore my hope that our government will provide the necessary and appropriate funds that may help alleviate the destruction caused by this catastrophe. So far, USAID has allotted nine million dollars for relief efforts. However, no amount of aid can ever compensate for the anguish and profound loss that has been experienced by the Indian people.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF ONE ACCORD MINISTRY

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the efforts of a local community organization, Of One Accord Ministry, making the lives of many people in the First Congressional District better.

This weekend, Of One Accord Ministry will hold a celebration dinner in honor of the many volunteers who offered their time and assistance to help those who were less fortunate. Last year, these efforts helped over 28,000 individuals in Hawkins and Hancock Counties.

The true heroes of this organization were over 200 volunteers from all walks of life such as young scouts, employees from local businesses and industries, members of civic clubs, local schools, and members of various churches. These individuals offered their services in collecting needed items, taking donations, delivering food and other items to needy families, serving a free medical clinic for those in need of basic medical attention, and many other tasks.

In the Congress, I have often advocated that the government cannot be the answer to all of the problems that exist in our society. We can do many things to help out those who need assistance, but real changes come about with the help of the local community, neighbors helping neighbors, one individual at a time. Local organizations like Of One Accord Ministry are our first line of defense against these social problems. Their efforts should be highlighted and commended for the results they have achieved.

Too often, we only hear and read about the negative news in our localities. Positive efforts such as those provided by local citizens often go unnoticed. I want to take this opportunity to recognize, congratulate, and bring to the attention of the Congress the great work that is being accomplished by the volunteers of Of One Accord Ministry. Tennesseans are long known for their selfless devotion, earning us the nickname the "Volunteer State." These volunteers carry on that tradition and are truly deserving of our thanks today.

February 6, 2001

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to former Senator Alan Cranston of California who passed away over the holiday break. In a career spanning most of the 20th century, both as a private citizen and a Member of Congress, he developed a reputation as a tireless advocate of worthy causes from the environment to veterans health, and most notably arms control. His passing gives us pause to reflect on the legacy of one who fought hard his entire life for peace and democratic freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, Alan Cranston began his crusade for peace early in his life as a journalist. Born in Palo Alto, California in 1914, Cranston graduated from Stanford University in 1936 and he worked for the International News Service where he edited the first unaltered version of Mein Kampf, laying bare Hitler's racist beliefs, and inviting a lawsuit from the Fuehrer over copyright infringement. In 1939, Cranston continued his fight against racism as an advocate for the Common Council for America Unity, an organization opposing discrimination against the foreign born.

Cranston's service to his country began during World War II, when he enlisted in the United States Army and became a private. Because of his verbal skills, he was assigned to lecture to soldiers on war aims. After the war, Cranston continued to advocate peace through his career in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, in 1968, he became a United States Senator from California. In the U.S. Senate, Alan Cranston's tireless advocacy for protecting the California desert and advocating the philosophy of arms control and arms reduction earned him the reputation of a "workhorse," and it is one he rightly deserves. And even after leaving the Senate at the age of 82, Alan Cranston continued until the time of his death to press for arms reduction by chairing two San Francisco-based think tanks—the Gorbachev Foundation USA and the Global Security Institute.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Alan Cranston worked long and hard for peace, and at his passing I join his many friends and admirers in paying tribute to his distinguished service, and it is my hope that we may carry on his work with equal strength and conviction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 on January 30–31, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."